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EXETER PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

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ANNUAL REPORT

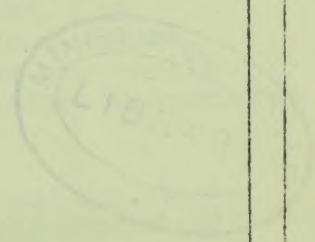
OF THE

PORT MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR

1956

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EXETER PORT HEALTH AUTHORITYPORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION - 1956.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1956.

There was only one case of an infectious disease recorded - this being a case of Pneumonia in a member of the crew of a coastwise ship.

As in previous years a close watch has been kept on the ships to detect the presence of rats on board. The reason why so much attention is paid to the control of these rodents is that plague is primarily a disease of rats, especially the black rat, and the flea which infests these rats can, if they bite man, transmit the disease of plague from the rat to the man. The Ministry of Health have asked Port Health Authorities to endeavour to collect specimens of rats from ships or from the vicinity of the port and send them to the Public Health Laboratories for examination for plague. In the case of the Exeter Port Health Authority, I am pleased to say that no evidence of any rats has been found aboard a ship during the year, and further the Inspectors have been unable to find a rat in the vicinity of the wharves, and therefore no specimens have been sent for that purpose.

The general standard of cleanliness on board the ships has been satisfactory and no action has been required in respect of any sanitary defects.

It was to be hoped with the establishment of the Warehouse at Topsham Wharf that shipping would once again make use of this wharf, but I regret to say that this has not materialized, and in fact only one ship of 97 tons and carrying a cargo of Timber did actually berth there.

It should be noted that this year the nett registered tonnage fell from 62,677 in 1955 to 54,775 in 1956, and that whilst the tonnage passing up the canal to Exeter was only 446 less than last year, there was a fall of 7,375 nett registered tons entering the Exmouth Harbour. With regard to ships from foreign ports, there were 54 ships totaling 7,671 nett registered tons, as compared with 73 ships totaling 12,101 nett registered tons last year.

In conclusion, I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the Chairman and members of the Exeter Port Health Committee and all members of the staff for their help and the support shown to me during the year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

L.G. ANDERSON,

Port Medical Officer.

TABLE A.

NAME OF OFFICER	NATURE OF APPOINTMENT.	DATE OF APPOINTMENT.	QUALIFICATIONS	ANY OTHER APPOINTMENTS
Dr. L. G. Anderson	Port Medical Officer.	1.8.1948	M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health: Exmouth U.D.C. Budleigh Salterton U.D.C. St. Thomas R.D.C. Ass't. County Medical Officer, Devon County Council.
Dr. D. L. H. Moore	Deputy Port Medical Officer	1.4.1941	B.A., M.B., Ch.B., R.A.O.	General Medical Practitioner
Mr. F. G. Davies	Port Health Inspector (Exeter Basin)	1.4.1946	F.R.S.H., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.P.H.I.A. (Meat & Other Foods Cert)	Senior Public Health Inspector, Exeter City Council.
Mr. D. R. Redgwell	Port Health Inspector (Exmouth Harbour)	22.1.1951	M.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A. (Meat & Other Foods Cert). (Smoke Inspectors Certificate).	Public Health Inspector Exmouth U.D.C.
Mr. K. C. Benham	Port Health Inspector (Torsham Quay)	1.4.1953	Cert. S.I.B., M.P.H.I.A.	Deputy Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, St. Thomas R.D.C.

SECTION II - AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR

TABLE B.

SHIPS FROM	NUMBER	TONNAGE	NUMBER INSPECTED		NUMBER OF SHIPS REPORTED AS HAVING HAD, DURING THE VOYAGE, INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON BOARD.
			BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.	BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.	
Foreign Ports	54	7,671	14	36	-
Coastwise	353	47,104	-	192	1
Total	407	54,775	14	228	1

SECTION III - CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR

PASSENGER TRAFFIC	Number of Passengers INWARD	NIL
	Number of Passengers OUTWARD	NIL
CARGO TRAFFIC	Principal IMPORTS	1. Petrol 3. Cement 2. Coal 4. Timber.
	Principal EXPORTS	Spent Oxide
PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrive.	FOREIGN	Caen Fredericksund Amsterdam Gothenburg Appingedam Rouen.
	COASTWISE	London Poole Blyth. Keadby Southampton Goole Rochester

TABLE C (1)

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Table showing Annual tonnage of shipping entering the Port () = Number of ships.

(a) Refers to all ships entering the port.

Year	Exmouth (Harbour)	Exeter (Basin).	Topsham	Total
1948	21,143 (133)	14,431 (144)	—	35,574 (277)
1949	19,174 (100)	17,559 (187)	—	36,733 (287)
1950	18,245 (91)	18,626 (197)	—	36,871 (288)
1951	19,986 (95)	19,299 (214)	—	39,285 (309)
1952	22,198 (106)	20,332 (204)	—	42,530 (310)
1953	24,950 (105)	24,212 (243)	304 (2)	49,466 (350)
1954	27,366 (117)	27,171 (276)	190 (1)	54,727 (394)
1955	33,856 (154)	28,643 (277)	178 (1)	62,677 (432)
1956	26,481 (121)	28,197 (285)	97 (1)	54,775 (407)

(b) Refers to ships from foreign ports and included in (a) above.

Year	Exmouth (Harbour)	Exeter (Basin)	Topsham	Total
1948	3,035 (20)	911 (9)	—	3,946 (29)
1949	3,651 (24)	687 (7)	—	4,338 (31)
1950	1,014 (6)	1,434 (16)	—	2,448 (22)
1951	819 (6)	2,399 (24)	—	3,218 (30)
1952	1,850 (11)	1,491 (14)	—	3,341 (25)
1953	2,780 (16)	2,206 (20)	118 (1)	5,104 (37)
1954	5,629 (23)	1,376 (13)	—	7,005 (41)
1955	9,293 (49)	2,630 (24)	178 (1)	12,101 (73)
1956	5,179 (33)	2,395 (20)	97 (1)	7,671 (54)

SECTION IV - INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

There are no barges which use this district,

SECTION V - WATER SUPPLY.

- (1) Sources of supply for (a) the district and (b) shipping.
The water supplies serving the sanitary districts are used for the shipping at their respective wharfs viz:
- (a) Exmouth Harbour - Exmouth Urban District Public supply.
- (b) Exeter Basin - Exeter City Council Public supply.
- (c) Topsham - St. Thomas R.D.C. Public supply to Topsham parish.

- (2) Reports of tests for contamination.

Routine regular tests are carried out by the responsible authorities viz: Exmouth U.D.C., St. Thomas R.D.C., and Exeter City Council. All these supplies are chlorinated and the bacteriological results were satisfactory.

- (3) Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.

The hydrants and hosepipes are regularly inspected by the Port Health Inspector. The hosepipes are stored under cover when not in use and are well flushed out prior to use.

- (4) Number and sanitary condition of water boats.

There are no water boats operating at this port.

SECTION VI - PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS 1952

- (1) List of Infected areas.

A copy of the list of infected areas is prepared weekly at the office of the Port Medical Officer, Templetown Lodge, Esplanade, Exmouth, and is forwarded by post to the following persons:-

- (1) Mr. S. Connor, Custom's Officer, Exmouth.
- (2) Mr. F.G. Davies, Port Health Inspector, Exeter Basin.
- (3) Mr. D.R. Redgwell, Port Health Inspector, Exmouth Harbour.
- (4) Executive Officer, Exeter Airport, Honiton Olyst
- (5) Mr. K.C. Benham, Port Health Inspector, Topsham Wharf.

(2) Radio Messages

- (a)
- Arrangements for sending permission, by radio, for ships to enter the district.

Arrangements have been made with the Post Office for sending Wireless Messages if required. None were sent during 1956.

- (b)
- Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon.

Arrangements have been made with the post office for receiving Wireless Messages if required. None were received during 1956.

(3) Notifications otherwise than by radio.

Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon.

Arrangements have been made with the Post Office for the transmission of telegrams to the Port Medical Officer - none were received during the year.

A 24 hour watch is maintained at H.M. Coastguard Station Exmouth from which signals by morse or flag may be sent or received as and when necessary.

(4) Mooring Stations.

- (a)
- Ships proceeding up the canal to Exeter Basin.

There are two buoys situated in that portion of the estuary of the River Exe known as the Bight to which all ships arriving from foreign ports make fast before boarding by H.M. Custom's Officers.

- (b) Ships whose destination is Exmouth harbour may make fast either to the buoys, as above, or to the pier head, Exmouth.

Where action is to be taken under Regulations 22 - 30 (Regulations dealing with the control of Infectious Diseases), the ships will be made fast to one of the buoys situated in the Bight, as above.

(5) Arrangements for:

- (a)
- Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than Smallpox).

Patients suffering from infectious disease will be transferred by ambulance to the Infectious Disease hospital of the Regional Hospital Board at Whipton, Exeter (Tel.No: Exeter 67158).

(b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts

Surveillance and follow up of contacts will be undertaken by the Port Medical Officer whilst the ship is within this district. Where the ship has to proceed to another port before the expiration of the period of surveillance, the contacts will be given letters to take to the Port Medical Officer of the next port of call informing him of the circumstances.

(c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, person and clothing and other articles.

Disinfection of ships will, when necessary, be undertaken by the Port Health Inspector, the formaldehyde method being used. Disinfection of clothing or bedding may be carried out at the steam disinfectant station of the Exmouth Urban District Council or Exeter City Council.

Cleansing of verminous persons will be carried out by the Port Health Inspector on the ship itself and his clothing, bedding etc., removed to the steam disinfectant station at Exmouth or Exeter, as appropriate, for steam disinfection.

SECTION VII - SMALLPOX

- (1) The Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases will be sent from the district is "The Upton Pyne Smallpox Hospital" (5 miles from Exeter) Tel. No: Stoke Canon 207. The admission will be made through the Medical Officer of the Whipton Isolation Hospital, (Tel. No: Exeter 67158). The vaccination state of the Hospital staff is up to date.

- (2) The transport of cases of smallpox will be undertaken by a special infectious disease ambulance by arrangement with the Exeter City Ambulance Officer (Tel. No: Exeter 55485).

(3) Consultants:

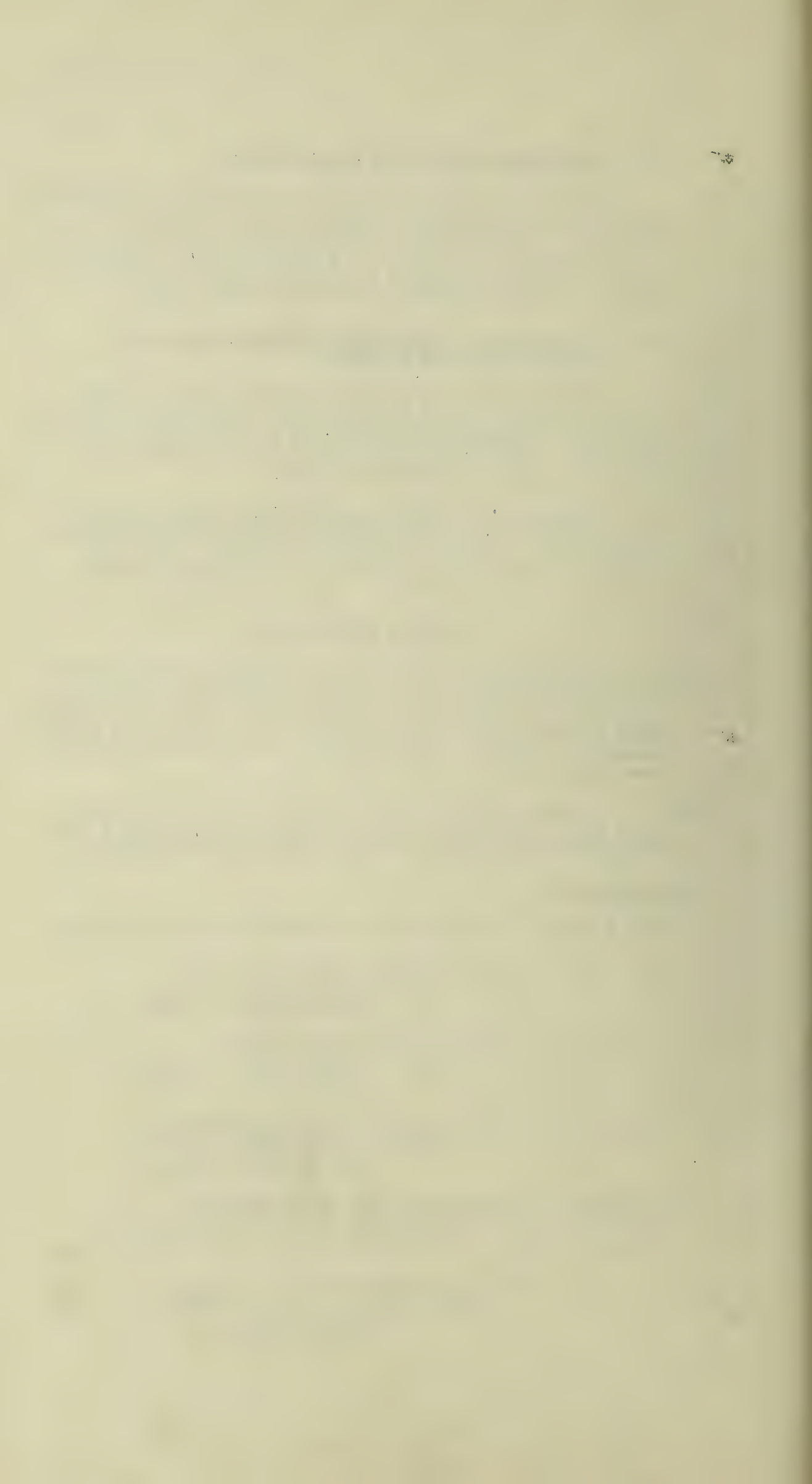
The following consultants are available as and when necessary:-

- (1) Dr. C. Seward, 20, West Southernhay, Exeter.
Tel.No: Exeter 72110 - Day.
Exmouth 4120 - Night.
- (2) Dr. W.J. Laird, City Hospital, Exeter.
Tel.No: Exeter 72671 - Office
Exeter 73116 - Home
- (3) Dr.A.H.G. Down, 1, The Mede, Whipton Exeter.
Tel.No: Exeter 73805 - Office
Exeter 67121 - Home.

(4) Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of Smallpox.

Specimens for laboratory diagnosis will be sent to the:-

Virus Reference Laboratory,
Central Public Health Laboratory,
Colindale Avenue,
LONDON, N.W. 9.



SECTION VIII - VENEREAL DISEASE.

Masters of vessels are informed of the following arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements.

Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital:

Mondays: 15.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs.

Fridays: 18.00 hrs to 20.00 hrs.

SECTION IX - CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF SHIPS

TABLE D.

Category	Disease	No. of cases during year		No. of Ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	-	-	-	-
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	-	-	-	-
Cases landed from other ships	Acute Primary Pneumonia.	-	1	1

SECTION X - OBSERVATIONS OF THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS.

No cases of malaria were notified.

SECTION XI - MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

No measures were necessary under this section.

SECTION XII- MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

- (1) Procedure for inspection of ships for rats - Enquiries are made from masters of all vessels using the port concerned regarding the presence of rats, and if present, of signs of unusual mortality among the rats.

No evidence of rats was found on any ships entering the port during the year.

- (2) The bacteriological examination of rodents with special reference to rodent plague are carried out at the:-

Public Health Laboratory,
7, Dix's Field,
Exeter.

No specimens of brown rats from the vicinity of the wharfs were sent for bacteriological examination during the year.

- (3) Deratting of ships

The Exeter Port Health Authority is not a recognised authority for this purpose. A ship requiring deratization would be referred to the port of Plymouth.

- (4) Progress of rat-proofing of ships.

The general construction of the ships and nature of the cargo of the ships using this port are not conducive to rat breeding and other than efforts to maintain a high standard of cleanliness, no action appears necessary,

TABLE E.

Rodents destroyed during the year
in ships from Foreign Ports

Category	Number
Black rats	Nil
Brown rats	Nil
Species not known	Nil
Sent for examination	Nil
Infected with plague	Nil

TABLE F.

DERATTING CERTIFICATE AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES
ISSUED DURING THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

In accordance with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Application to Shipping Order, 1951, eleven rodent control certificates were issued during the year. For seven of these, issued after the 5th May 1956, a charge of 10s.0d per certificate was made, as authorized by the Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) (Amendment No.2) Order, 1956.

SECTION XIII - INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

TABLE G.

Inspection and Notices

Nature and Number of Inspections	Notices served		Result of serving Notices.
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Routine 529	-	-	-
TOTAL: 529	-	-	-

SECTION XIV - PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL-FISH)

REGULATIONS 1934 and 1938

The circumstances relating to this section remain as detailed in my report for the year 1955 viz:-

- (1) Sterilization by steaming under pressure for at least six minutes, and
- (2) By an approved method of cleansing e.g., by means of water sterilized by chlorine.

To our knowledge, the second method of purification as practised at the Lymstone Purification Works has not been used during the past year.

Sterilization by boiling is employed at the Exe Shellfish Company, Exmouth, and of the 16 samples of Shellfish which were sent for bacteriological examination during the year, all were found to be satisfactory.

TABLE H.

Nature of Specimen	Number of Samples.	Result, according to the Fishmongers' Company Standards.
Exe Shellfish Ltd.		
Mussels	6	Satisfactory
Cockles	10	Satisfactory.

SECTION XV - MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS

This port is not approved for the landing of aliens.

SECTION XVI - MISCELLANEOUS

- (1) Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

Such persons would be conveyed by the infectious disease ambulance to the mortuary at Whipton Isolation Hospital to await burial.

